

from The Ohio State University and a diploma from Mt. Carmel Hospital School of Nursing. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing (1600 invited members out of 2.9 million RNs). She is a member of Zeta Theta At-Large chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International (the international honor society of nursing) and in 2002 became a charter member of Rho Chi, the first European chapter. She also is a founding member of the Nightingale Policy Institute, a virtual gathering of experienced nurses in the U.S. policy arena. Dr. Milstead received the Gamma Mu Chapter Award for Excellence in Nursing. She also received the first Search for Excellence Award from the American Nurses Association/South Carolina Nurses Association and was honored by the South Carolina General Assembly for her leadership and service. She was awarded a Duquesne University Creative Teaching Award in 1998 for her pioneering work in designing and implementing the first online course taught in the first PhD in Nursing program in the world that is offered completely online. Dr. Milstead served three terms on the AACN Government Affairs Committee, is serving a second term on the Health Policy Council of ONA, and is a member of the Expert Panel on Global Health for the American Academy of Nursing. She was appointed in 2005 to the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority and was a member of a trade delegation to China in April 2006. She and a team of educators evaluated BSN programs in Jordan in November 2006.

Many in our community have sought Dr. Milstead's counsel and leadership, particularly in nursing and psychiatric nursing, but also in matters of health care policy. She is a compassionate and gifted leader who guides people by her own example. She has a deep understanding of the nuances of health care delivery from all perspectives, and is skilled at negotiating the complex system. Her sterling talents, dedication to our community and its health, and commitment to health worldwide have earned her this well-deserved recognition. I am pleased to offer my personal congratulations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately today, October 10, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions on H.R. 3056 and passage of H.R. 3056 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for Rollcall No. 959 on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions on H.R. 3056, the Tax Collection Responsibility Act of 2007, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for Rollcall No. 960 on passage of H.R. 3056, the Tax Collection Responsibility Act of 2007, I would have voted "aye."

RESOLVING THE OFFICIAL NAME OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAV RE- PUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2007

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, finding an internationally-acknowledged name for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) is an issue that threatens the peace of the Balkans and the stability of the region.

Particularly troubling is the ongoing insensitivity displayed by officials of FYROM with respect to provocative propaganda and rhetoric that is offensive to Greece.

The latest example of this occurred on September 25, when Dr. Srgjan Kerim, President of the United Nations General Assembly and a native of FYROM, introduced to the Assembly, FYROM's President as "President of the Republic of Macedonia."

Resolution of this issue could bring substantial stability to the region and pave the way for further integration of FYROM into the international community.

I would therefore like to bring to the House's attention excerpts from the following article that appeared in the September 27, 2007 issue of *The National Interest* by His Excellency Alexandros P. Mallias, Ambassador of Greece to the United States.

When U.N. General Assembly president H.E. Dr. Srgjan Kerim, a native of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), introduced on September 25 the president of his home country, Mr. Branko Crvenkovski, he implied that the national interest of FYROM prevails over his duties to the UN body. He therefore addressed Mr. Crvenkovski as the "President of the Republic of Macedonia."

Some people may think that what happened in the UN constitutes a minor or isolated incident. Nevertheless, this is not the case—this has deeper roots both on a regional and international level. Challenging UN resolutions and decisions and ignoring commitments undertaken through international agreements, as FYROM has systematically done by violating the US-brokered Interim Accord with Greece, is a bad precedent. This is a violation of the principle of good-neighborly relations and puts sustained regional stability in jeopardy.

Dr. Kerim, obviously acting under instructions from his government, has irreparably damaged his standing and credibility as president of the General Assembly. He did not respect the resolutions of the body over which he is presiding nor of the Security Council of the United Nations, the organization he has been called upon to serve.

The actions of Dr. Kerim and FYROM are a clear indication of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's lack of respect for international law and international institutions. They are also a blunt violation of the US-brokered Interim Accord.

Many Americans may think this is a minor issue. But the history of the region, not to mention of Europe as a whole, demonstrates that whenever irredentist claims are left unaddressed, the seeds of future conflicts are sown. Europe today is governed by the rule of law; the completion of the European project in the Balkans—and the extension of a zone of peace and prosperity—rest upon the willingness of governments to live up to their international commitments. Obligations are like a tapestry; even pulling on

what might appear to outsiders to be a small and insignificant thread can end up unraveling the entire work. We have too much invested in the stability of the region to allow this to happen.

TAX COLLECTION RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H.R. 3056, the Tax Collection Responsibility Act of 2007. I find myself in the awkward position of opposing the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, but we are being asked to eliminate the Internal Revenue Service, IRS, program to collect past-due income taxes without an alternative. This program involves the collection of millions of tax dollars, and there are no plans in place to collect this money if the program were to be killed. There are no plans to collect the millions of dollars needed to close the tax gap. Additionally, there is also no alternative to finding employment for the countless disabled veterans and severely disabled Americans.

Before we eliminate this program, there should be an alternative in place. Our colleague in the other body, Senator BEN NELSON of Nebraska, has introduced an initiative that would take the IRS program and use it to create meaningful employment for persons with disabilities and disabled veterans. The Disability Preference Program for Tax Collection Contracts would give an incentive to private third-party collection companies to hire people with severe disabilities and provide them with quality jobs.

Mr. Speaker, one in ten Americans has a disability. While the current unemployment rate in the Nation stood at 4.7 percent in September, the low employment rate of persons with disabilities continues to hover at 70–80 percent. The high number of returning disabled American veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan will only serve to compound this problem.

Currently, there are not enough jobs to provide gainful employment for the severely disabled veterans with only a high school GED. The Disability Preference Program would serve to alleviate the lack of meaningful employment opportunities for these young men and women. Jobs with third-party debt collection agencies can translate to high-paying careers. These jobs pay anywhere from \$25,000 to \$150,000 including health and 401(k) benefits.

Under the provisions of the Disability Preference Program, an initial hire of 750 persons with disabilities would save the Federal Government close to \$350 million over ten years in Supplemental Security Income, SSI, and Disability Insurance, DI, benefits alone. This figure does not include the additional benefits associated with the hiring of people in the \$40,000 salary range. This landmark program would not only create well-paying jobs for our severely disabled Americans, it would save the Federal Government millions of dollars at no cost.